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Patent

Attorney's Docket No. 034398-004

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|                                |   |                   |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| In re Patent Application of    | ) | MAIL STOP PCT     |
|                                | ) |                   |
| Shigeyuki AKIMOTO et al.       | ) | Group Art Unit:   |
|                                | ) |                   |
| Application No.:               | ) | Examiner:         |
|                                | ) |                   |
| Filed: November 15, 2005       | ) | Confirmation No.: |
|                                | ) |                   |
| For: OUTER SURFACE-INSPECTING  | ) |                   |
| METHOD, MASTER PATTERNS USED   | ) |                   |
| THEREFOR, AND OUTER SURFACE-   | ) |                   |
| INSPECTING APPARATUS EQUIPPED  | ) |                   |
| WITH SUCH A MASTER PATTERN (as | ) |                   |
| amended)                       | ) |                   |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows: